

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a site within a body, comprising:

inserting a flexible cannula into a body;

inserting a distal end of a first elongate member into a first lumen of [a] the cannula;

detachably attaching the distal end of the first elongate member to the cannula; [and]

steering [a] the distal end of the cannula to a desired site in [a] the body using the first elongate member; and

delivering an object or substance to the body site through the first cannula lumen.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising detaching the distal end of the first elongate member from the cannula, and removing the [distal end of] the first elongate member from the first lumen of the cannula.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, [further comprising delivering an] wherein the object or substance is delivered through [using] the first lumen after the [distal end of] the first elongate member has been removed.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the object is selected from the group consisting of at least a portion of a guidewire, at least a portion of an ablation device, at least a portion of an imaging device, an optical fiber[optic], a therapeutic element, a diagnostic

element, and an implant.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the cannula has a second lumen extending between ends of the cannula, [and] the method further comprising delivering an object or substance to the body site through [using] the second cannula lumen.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the object is selected from the group consisting of at least a portion of a guidewire, at least a portion of an ablation device, at least a portion of an imaging device, an optical fiber[optic], a therapeutic element, a diagnostic element, and an implant.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising[:] inserting a distal end of a second elongate member into a second lumen of the cannula[:], and attaching the distal end of the second elongate member to the cannula.

28. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a site within a body, comprising:
inserting a flexible cannula into a body;

inserting a distal end of a first elongate member into a first lumen of [a] the cannula to thereby stiffen at least a portion of the cannula;

detachably attaching the distal end of the first elongate member to the cannula; [and]

manipulating a proximal end of the cannula to thereby place [a] the distal end of the cannula at a desired position in the body; and

delivering an object or substance to the body through the first cannula lumen.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising detaching the distal end of the first elongate member from the cannula, and removing the [distal end of the] first elongate member from the first lumen of the cannula.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, [further comprising delivering an] wherein the object or substance is delivered through [using] the first lumen after the [distal end of] the first elongate member has been removed.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the object is selected from the group consisting of at least a portion of a guidewire, at least a portion of an ablation device, at least a portion of an imaging device, an optical fiber[optic], a therapeutic element, a diagnostic element, and an implant.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the cannula has a second lumen extending between ends of the cannula, [and] the method further comprising delivering an object or substance to the body site through [using] the second cannula lumen.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the object is selected from the group consisting of at least a portion of a guidewire, at least a portion of an ablation device, at least a portion of an imaging device, an optical fiber[optic], a therapeutic element, a diagnostic element, and an implant.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising[:] inserting a distal end of a second elongate member into a second lumen of the cannula[:], and attaching the distal end of the second elongate member to the cannula.

35. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a site within a body, comprising:

inserting a flexible cannula into a body;

inserting a wire having a bent distal end portion [configuration] into a lumen of a cannula, the cannula having a distal end, a first portion at the distal end, and a second portion proximal to the first portion, wherein the second portion is relatively stiffer than the first portion, such that insertion of the wire through the second proximal portion and into the first portion of the cannula causes the first cannula portion to bend with the bent distal end portion of the wire; and

manipulating the wire by sliding the [a] bent distal end portion of the wire either distally or proximally relative to the cannula to thereby steer the distal end of the cannula by changing the bend of the first cannula portion.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising removing the wire from the cannula lumen [of the cannula] after the distal end of the cannula has been desirably positioned in the body.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising [using the lumen of the cannula to] delivering an object or substance to the body through the first cannula lumen [a tool,

an instrument, a therapeutic element, a diagnostic element, or fluid, from a proximal end of the cannula to the distal end of the cannula].

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the object or substance is selected from the group consisting of a tool, an instrument, a therapeutic element, a diagnostic element, and fluid.